

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 1 has been amended to include a Prior Art legend. A replacement sheet for Figure 1 properly labeled as such is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Drawings and Specification

Figure 1 was objected to for not having a Prior Art legend. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to correct this informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot.

Additionally, the Abstract was objected for containing various informalities. Applicants have amended the Abstract to correct these informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct the informality identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,950,412) in view of Riihinen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,944,462). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections at least because Lee is not valid prior art under section 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Specifically, the earliest possible 102(e) priority date for Lee is January 2, 2001 which is after Applicants earliest priority date of December 18, 2000. To perfect Applicant's claim for priority, Applicants submit herewith an English language translation of the priority document which is verified to be accurate. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3-7 and 9 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claim. However, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 1-9) are allowable.

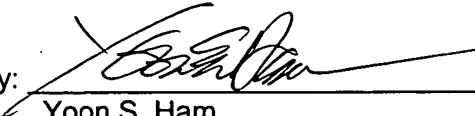
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

